Washington, D. C. 20505

21 October 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: The President

The Vice President Secretary of State Secretary of Defense

Counsellor to the President Chief of Staff to the President Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

Deputy Chief of Staff to the President

Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT:

Effects of Radio Marti and Soviet Efforts to Counter Its Impact

1. A series of reports and events suggests that the Soviet Union may be preparing a series of actions and diplomatic initiatives designed to block foreign broadcasting to people inside the Soviet bloc.

Soviet Actions

- -- Recently the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Moscow called in representatives of the foreign press and told them that their reporting would be more carefully scrutinized to make sure that they did not report "false information" inimical to the Soviet Union. To prove that the Ministry meant this, the visa of a New York Times correspondent was lifted for three days shortly after the meeting;
- -- The Soviet Foreign Ministry subsequently called in Ambassadors from the United States, Great Britain, Germany and France to tell them that broadcasts into the Soviet Union are in violation of international agreements and that the Soviet Union intended to bring this up in international forum;
- -- At the international telecommunications meeting, currently in progress in Nairobi, the Czech delegation is seeking on the agenda a resolution declaring that broadcasts from a foreign source not in the interest of a sovereign state are in violation of international agreements and may be cut off;
- -- Some time ago the Soviets in an international forum unsuccessfully introduced a resolution that broadcasts by satellite, inimical to a sovereign power, could be cut off.

Cuban Activities

	Photography	of (transmitters	erected	in	Cuba	subsequent	to	the
announcement							•		

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- -- A recent intelligence report that the Cuban government has completed its preparations to launch a new radio station to be called "Radio Lincoln." This station will be activated in the event that the United States Government puts "Radio Marti" on the air;
- -- A report that the Cuban Institute of Radio and Television (ICRTV) has formed a team of broadcasters and organized a programming format to be ready to begin broadcasting immediately suggests that substantive programs to the United States may be planned;
- -- A Cuban Minister of Communications has stated that he is certain that within a month after Radio Marti comes on the air the United States Government will be forced to negotiate with the Government of Cuba as a result of the disruptive effects of the Cuban Radio Lincoln. According to the official, the principal objective of Radio Lincoln is to disrupt US commercial broadcasts in Florida so that the owners of private US broadcasting stations will oblige the US Government to negotiate on the subject of radio frequencies with Cuba.
- 2. All this suggests that we are about to face not only interference with broadcasting activity but also a comprehensive diplomatic initiative to give that kind of interference the color of legality. A resolution passed in any international forum would give the Soviets an excuse to undercut not only Radio Marti but Voice of America, Radio Vatican, Radio Liberation and Radio Free Europe and broadcasting of Israel, France, the United Kingdom and other countries.
- -- This effort is probably stimulated not only by the imminence of Radio Marti and Castro's concern about it but also by Soviet concern about broadcasts into Poland, Afghanistan, and broadcasts into the Soviet Union about their failure in Afghanistan. Broadcast from Sudan, to be followed by broadcasting from Saudi Arabia, into Libya are driving Qadhafi up the wall according to several sources.

Qadhafi is asking for advice as to whether to respond by jamming or by imprisoning listeners.

3. It is clear that the Soviets are facing this in a more sophisticated and comprehensive way

William J. Gasey

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